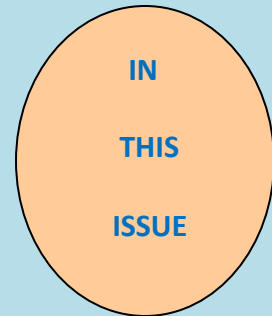




Reporting on the PTA of Centennial Lane Elementary School

FALL 2010

Interview with Principal Brad Herling	Pgs. 1-2
Welcome Back Students!	Pg. 3
Spring Fair Silent Auction	Pg. 3
Dolphin Dash	Pg. 4
Book/Coat Drive	Pg. 5
Neighbor2Neighbor	Pg. 5-6
Survey: Parents polled re: the PTA	Pg. 6
Cultural Arts & Student Directory	Pg. 7
About Us	Pg. 7



PTA People

Centennial Lane Elementary happily welcomes new principal, Mr. Brad Herling! The Wave spent some time with Mr. Herling, who readily agreed to share his own story, as well as his vision for our school.



Can you tell us a little about your work in the field of education?

I have worked in Howard County schools for 35 years. For the past 12 years I have been principal at Clarksville Elementary. I served as assistant principal there for one year prior. The rest of my career was at Waterloo Elementary where I began HC's first self contained class for students identified as Seriously

Emotionally Handicapped. I worked there for over 20 years as teacher, team leader and assistant principal.

What have you enjoyed most so far as Principal of CLES?

I value the dedication and hard work of the staff and the respectful manner of the students.

What has been your biggest challenge so far?

There are many similarities between Clarksville ES and Centennial Lane ES. The challenge is to dig deep enough to see the small differences in how things are done in order to have a good understanding of Centennial Lane ES.

On a different note, tell us a little about your life outside the school walls.

I am married, and my wife and I celebrated our 40th anniversary last year. I have 2 daughters, both married, and 2 grandsons, 3 months apart in age. One turned 2 in September, and the other will be 2 in December. I love to bicycle, riding the roads spring through fall. The sport I most enjoy watching is lacrosse. I was a high school and college player as well as a high school coach! I am also an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction.

What are your hopes for the school during your tenure?

I hope to provide support to the staff so that they may continue to provide an excellent educational experience for our students. I hope to learn the names of as many students as possible and to have them see me as someone they can talk to and turn to whenever needed. This will help to instill a warm and positive atmosphere throughout the building. I want to be open and accessible to parents in order to support a strong home/school partnership.

How do you envision the role of the PTA in terms of your goals for the school?

The PTA is the backbone of the school. An involved, engaged PTA helps to ensure a successful school. I have always worked very closely with the PTA president to coordinate efforts on behalf of the children. I see myself as a sounding board for executive board members and committee chairs to offer the school perspective on ideas and activities.

We thank Principal Herling for his time and look forward to much success under his direction!

PTA Social Events

Welcome back, students! On August 27th, students and parents headed to CLES to find out their class/teacher assignments. The PTA Social Committee was on hand with icy, fun **popsicles**, helping to make the back-to-school transition just a little easier!



Enjoying popsicles on a hot day



Parents & students eagerly search the class lists

Help Needed! Committee Chairman needed for the Silent Auction at the 2011 Spring Fair! The Spring Fair last June was a huge success, and the Silent Auction played a big part. Please consider donating your time and organizational talents by becoming Silent Auction Chair, or team up with a friend and be Co-Chairs! Contact Michelle Berry at shelberry@verizon.net.

~ DOLPHIN DASH ~



The Dolphin Dash is a favorite annual social event for both students and families. September 24th brought lovely weather - perfect for running the race, enjoying picnics on the grounds, and plenty of music and play. A visit from the school mascot, Splash, was icing on the cake!

Above: 2nd graders greet Splash; Below: CLES families picnic together.



PTA Community Outreach

Book Drive

The 9th Annual Book Drive brought in about 400 books, which were given to Lakeland Elementary/Middle School, located in the city of Baltimore.

The PTA Community Outreach committee will also be collecting winter coats later this Fall, for the benefit of the same school. Many thanks to the CLES family for your generosity as we help those in need.



Neighbor2Neighbor: Feeding the Community

The CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program is currently in its second year, having more than doubled in size from 86 to over 177 shares this year. The CSA is a cooperative program among CLES, Centennial High, and Burleigh Manor Middle, in which members choose from a selection of fresh produce, eggs, meat, cheese and breads each week, all locally grown by farmer Earl Martin of Martin Herb Farms in Baltimore County.



The Neighbor2Neighbor program began when Mr. Martin agreed to donate one share to the needy for every 50 shares sold weekly to CSA members. Each week, gift boxes are packed for families in our community who have been identified by school counselors as eligible for extra support. Additionally, the Neighbor2Neighbor families are allowed to pick the produce they most enjoy (as do all the CSA members, an opportunity not normally afforded in most CSA programs). Our CSA member families have

also generously donated portions of their own shares to the Neighbor2Neighbor project. In the first 12 weeks of the program's implementation, 77 shares were donated to families in need.

The CSA has also been able to establish a relationship with the Domestic Violence Center in Columbia. In the first 12 weeks of the program, 14 shares went to help feed the women and children at the Domestic Violence Center.

Finally, Martin Herb Farms is also generously donating \$10 per share each week to be split buy the 3 schools' PTA/PTSA groups! For more information on the Centennial CSA, email Centennialcsa@yahoo.com or contact program coordinator, Bonnie Sorak, at 410-465-0427. Together we can make a difference!

~ The PTA Asked Your Opinion! ~

The Wave conducted an informal survey, polling CLES families on their views regarding PTA-sponsored events and activities. The families represent children from all grades, K-5. The results:

Favorite Social/Fundraising Event: 60% of parents chose the Spring Fair; 70% of students chose Dolphin Dash. The Book Fair ran a close second, and the Winter Dance was among the favorites, too.

Favorite Educational Event: Science Fair and Reflections tied for top spot among parents; Cultural Arts and Reflections tied for top spot with students.

Favorite Community Outreach Project: The Winter Coat Drive took the top spot for "most likely to donate to", but the Book Drive, Teddy Bear Drive and food donations all ranked equally as very close seconds.

40% of parents polled expressed the desire for our children to be more involved in a "hands-on" way with the Community Outreach projects - parents' ideas include: allowing students to help deliver books, teddy bears, food, etc. to those in need; allowing students to raise money for the needy by selling treats such as candy or

homemade cards/food, which would be delivered to their friends' homeroom on Valentine's Day or during the Winter holidays (like a Candy-Gram); or running a lemonade stand during lunch. All proceeds would then go to a specific cause. The suggestion was also made for a **more global outreach project to benefit places like Haiti or Africa.**

60% of parents feel very well-informed of PTA activities, with 40% feeling "pretty well" informed.

30% of parents polled expressed the desire to be more informed of the **Cultural Arts** events. Suggestions include advertising the schedule in the weekly newsletter or in a memo sent home. Parents want to know what their kids are talking about, as well as be able to discuss the events with their kids before they happen. *(Editor's Note: The Cultural Arts schedule of events can be found at www.clespta.org, under the PTA tab.)*

70% say they often consult the www.clespta.org website for information, with 30% saying they consult it occasionally.

Thank you, CLES families, for sharing your opinions! The PTA always welcomes suggestions and comments from everyone.

Cultural Arts

The Cultural Arts program is planned and funded by the PTA. Throughout the school year, various artists and specialists visit CLES to provide educational entertainment, performing in school assemblies and in classrooms. Past events have included visits from dance troupes, storytellers, scientists, theatre groups and many more!

October 22: New Moon Theater of Catonsville presents "The Old Man and the Bay" to 4th and 5th graders.

October 25: New Moon Theater of Catonsville presents "The Good Earth" to K-3rd graders. (A scene from "The Good Earth" pictured right.)

The Cultural Arts committee is hard at work scheduling the remainder of the school year.



The CLES Student Directory is a major project each September!

Many thanks to Jane Hockersmith who pulled everything together this year, making it possible for CLES families to easily keep in touch.

The Wave is a quarterly online publication of the CLES PTA.
Its purpose is to provide CLES families with a broader understanding of
the activities and people of our PTA.

Please direct any questions or comments to editor Kelley Addison at kelly.22@verizon.net.